



# The Grebe

Volume 8, Issue 4

Fall 2012

Mission of The Friends of  
Deer Flat:

*The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.*

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## NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK CELEBRATION

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge invite you to a celebration of the Wildlife Refuge System.

The celebration starts at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 20th and lasts until 4:00 p.m.

Featured speakers, Staff members, and local nature enthusiasts will engage the audiences in presentations throughout the event in the auditorium at the visitor center.

**Kids' events:** • craft tables (10:00-2:00)—mask making, face painting, painting bird houses, arts and crafts • scavenger hunt (10:00-1:30) participants qualify for a three prize drawings during the day.

Amateur radio booth - Local amateur radio club members will be available to chat with as they communicate with other refuges and other citizens who call in during the event. This is a great time for everyone to learn more about this hobby/skill.

Silent auction (10:00-1:30) Featured items: • Hamburger Connection meals • Deer Flat cap and related items • Birdhouses • Signed book by Robert Sobba, local historian • Signed art pieces

All attendees are encouraged to hike the Centennial Trail and the nature trail, and photograph birds at the bird blind. Digital cameras are available for checkout at the visitor center desk and images can be saved to a participant's personal data source.

For more information, contact Genevieve Johannsen at 208-467-7515 or by email at: [friendsofdf@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofdf@yahoo.com)



## A Note from the President:

Since June it has been a very busy summer for the Friends group. As you know from previous newsletters and communications, we have recognized the need to have more active members on our board of directors for some time. After returning from a week of inspiring examples and insightful discussions at the Friends Leadership Academy held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV, it was even more apparent what our friends group could be, but more action was the key. As a result, Jennifer Brown-Scott, our refuge manager, stepped up to work with the current board and committee members to help us forge a plan for further growth.

At this writing, we have re-established three committees for you to become involved with and we have three potential new board members. We hope to meet each of them within the next few weeks and allow you to meet them at our next membership meeting. **The three committees that I hope you will volunteer to join are: Environmental Education; Outreach; and Events.** There is more work ahead of us, but if we grow as a team no one will be over-burdened.

Speaking of events, as we head into fall we can look forward to strengthening our identity as we work together to celebrate **National Wildlife Refuge Week October 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**. The week kicks off with our second annual birding event, **The Big Sit**, on **Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**, I encourage all of you to come join the circle for at least part of the day **between 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P. M.** We will be watching to see how many different types of birds are on the refuge from a single vantage point. Bring your binoculars, field guide, and a comfortable chair, or if you are in need of those things we will have some available. (For more information read on to the topic page.)

On **Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will bring the week to a close you are all invited to come out to the Refuge and join the fun from **10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.** as we paint more large animal cutouts, listen to **great speakers**, enjoy a special **no-host lunch**, and participate in **our first silent auction**. There will be **crafts for the kids** and we will hang the bird feeders in the early afternoon so that our winter-over birds will have sufficient food as the weather grows cold and seeds become hard to find. This year we have also added **the local amateur radio** group to the event. They will have a communication tent set up and you can chat with them and listen to their communication. If you are an operator, or know of friends who are, watch for emails as the date approaches telling the frequency.

If you would like to contribute to the **silent auction**, we are still in need of items. Perhaps you can work in teams to create a themed basket related to wildlife and nature or have an opportunity to share (e.g., a weekend at a cabin). Original art and handcrafts are also welcomed. Since we don't want to just be raising funds from ourselves, be sure to invite co-workers and friends to join the fun as well. **Bidding will close at 1:30 and winners will be announced just before 2:00 P.M.**

I hope to see you all there!

- - - Genevieve

*Mark your calendar...*

## Upcoming Events

### ***Lecture Series - All About Bird Songs***

Tuesday, October 9, 7 p.m.

See page 13 for additional information

### ***Scout Day***

Saturday, October 13

### ***The Big Sit***

Sunday, October 14

See page 4 for additional information

### ***National Wildlife Refuge Week Celebration***

Saturday, October 20

See page 1 for more information

### ***Creepy Critter Encounters***

Saturday, October 27

See page 9 for more information

### ***Scout Day***

Saturday, November 3

### ***Lecture Series - Wintering Raptor Population Trends***

Tuesday, November 13, 7 p.m.

See page 13 for additional information

### ***Scout Day***

Saturday, December 1

### ***Lecture Series - 2012 Fire Season & Updates on Boo-Boo the Bear Cub***

Tuesday, December 11, 7 p.m.

See page 13 for additional information

***Scout Day Information*** Sign up your wolf, bear, and webelo Cub Scouts or Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Pre-registration is required. Call 467-9278 or e-mail [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) to pre-register.

### ***Reading at the Refuge***

1st & 3rd Mondays of the month.

Time: 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.

Preschoolers (and their parents!) are invited to Reading at the Refuge. Children listen to a wildlife-related story and participate in related activities that will help them learn about the environment.

Programs are held at the refuge Visitors Center.

## Upcoming Refuge Events:

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov)

The **Grebe** newsletter is published quarterly. If you have an article or photo that you would like to be included in a future newsletter, please contact Denise Hughes at [den.hug100@gmail.com](mailto:den.hug100@gmail.com)

## THE BIG SIT!



Whatever your skill level, join the circle for as long or as short a time as you like and help us count the various types of birds that live in our rural area.

Members of the Southwest Idaho Birders Association will be on hand to help.

Volunteers are needed to fill the circle, so e-mail or call in to choose the hour (or more) of your choice. Bring family and friends, your favorite snack, binoculars, field guides, and a comfortable chair to join the fun! If you don't have binoculars or field guides they will be provided.

We will begin at 7:00 a.m. to see the early birds (and to hoot for owls) and end at 7:00 p.m. as the sun sets.

To sign up email us at [friendsofdf@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofdf@yahoo.com) or call Deer Flat at 467-9278 to reserve your time slot.

Before and after your time in the circle we encourage you to bring your camera and visit the photo blind, hike the trails, and get to know *your* National Wildlife Refuge

*Join us for this second annual  
birding event!*

Sunday, October 14, 2012

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

on the lawn by the

*Visitor Center @ Deer Flat National  
Wildlife Refuge*

## *Silent Solitude* available through The Grebe's Nest bookstore

### Silent Solitude



Terrell Moffett

Many of us enjoy the photo opportunities of the Refuge, and Terrell Moffett, local photographer and photography teacher at Columbia High School in Nampa, has taken it to a new level. Terrell recently published a book of photographs that he captured at Deer Flat Refuge over the past several years. His work captures the seasons, the reflective nature of calm water and the illumination of the clouds and sun interacting.

The original photos are on display at Nampa Civic Center through October 8<sup>th</sup> and the book is available through the Friends' bookstore, The Grebe's Nest in the visitor center at the Refuge.

As Marcel Proust said, "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." When you look at Deer Flat national Wildlife Refuge through the lens and eyes of Mr. Moffett you see the beauty of nature at its best. It is a wonderful gift to own and would be a wonderful gift, as well. A book signing event is planned at a later in the next couple of months.

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## Deer Flat NWR - CCP Update

The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan is currently being reviewed, edited, and formatted. Fish and Wildlife Service staffs at the Regional and Washington DC Office levels are currently learning about the details of the plan so they can respond to questions from the public and provide feedback prior to the plan's release. After approval to release the document is received, it will take the Refuge staff about a month to make final edits, format changes and to have the document printed. **No matter when the Draft document is released, the Refuge is still committed to providing a 60-day public comment period.** Once we have a more definite release date, we will provide that information to the public.

Jennifer Brown-Scott  
Refuge Manager



# *THE REFUGE AND FRIENDS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME AND INTRODUCE TWO NEW AMERICORPS MEMBERS*

*-Kim Portwood, Environmental Education Specialist -*

Hi! My name is Kim Portwood. I am the new Environmental Education Specialist AmeriCorps member at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).



In 1988, I earned a degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University. I met my husband, Ray, at college and we were married in the spring of 1989. Ray has a 20+ year career with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Ray and I have been fortunate to live and work at many wildlife refuges in the country.

We began at Mingo NWR in Puxico, Missouri. I worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation as a resource technician for 3 years until our daughter Rachel was born. I decided to earn a secondary science teachers certification in order to spend more time with Rachel. I taught high

school Biology for one year, and then we moved to the Cache River Refuge in Bald Knob, Arkansas. We had our son, Riley, while living in Arkansas. Riley is 15 years old today.

In 1998, we had an opportunity to move to Izembek NWR in Cold Bay, Alaska. Longing for adventure, we jumped at the chance. Cold Bay is very remote, wild, and one of the most interesting places we have ever lived. On several occasions, we had grizzly bears and wolves in our yard. Three years later, Ray accepted a position in the Regional Office and we moved to Anchorage, Alaska. There we lived the "tourist life", which was fun in a different way. We spent our time near Anchorage doing outdoor activities such as snow skiing, whale watching, camping, hiking up glaciers, etc.

After Alaska, we moved to the mid-west, Canistota, South Dakota. Our kids grew up in a small farming community, with a small school and close friends. I worked at Canistota High School as junior/senior high school science teacher and special education aide. I created a new Environmental Science class, which I really enjoyed because it was a "hands on" course. We utilized the nearby State park as our classroom, and did a variety of lessons including water quality testing, insect collecting, and tagging Monarch butterflies. My experience in South Dakota boosted my confidence in teaching science again.

We currently live in Idaho. My daughter remained in South Dakota to complete a degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University. My son attends a small school in Homedale, and is enjoying playing sports in a smaller school. My husband is the Zone Law Enforcement Officer for Idaho and surrounding states. I am excited to combine my life experiences and formal education to make the most of this AmeriCorps opportunity at Deer Flat NWR. I love teaching kids, and I love wildlife conservation. Combining the two will be very rewarding.

# *THE REFUGE AND FRIENDS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME AND INTRODUCE TWO NEW AMERICORPS MEMBERS*

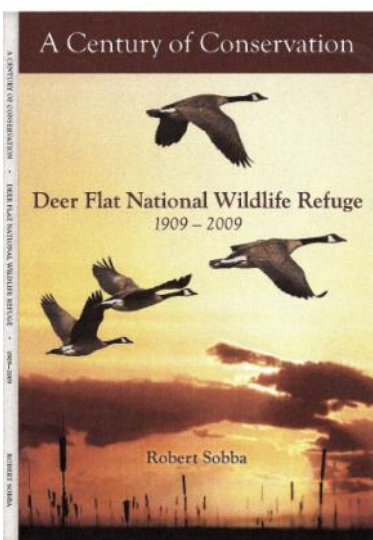
*-Heidi Fencik, Volunteer Coordinator -*

Hi, my name is Heidi Fencik. I am currently serving as the AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge in Nampa, Idaho. I just recently moved to Idaho in order to live close to my family after my husband's retirement from the military. I have a 20-year old daughter who attends college at Boise State and a 15-year old son who goes to high school in Nampa where we live.

I graduated from University of Nebraska's College of Public Administration with a focus in Aviation. After college, my background in public administration and regulation studies helped me earn a job as a Regulatory Specialist for an environmental consulting firm while we were stationed in Virginia. After that my husband got orders to Spandahlem AFB in Germany. We had the good fortune of living and traveling to many places in Europe over the 4 years we were stationed there. I volunteered quite a lot during those years and used my professional background to help streamline and transform the organizations I was involved with.



We moved back to the states during the last 12 months of my husband's career and instead of finding a new job for just those few short months, I volunteered as an Educational Assistant at Omaha Nebraska's botanical gardens, Lauritzen Gardens. Here I was able to combine my love of volunteering with my love of the beautiful outdoors. I thought I couldn't be happier and was sad to move away, but I think my new position will be just as wonderful! I truly enjoy working with volunteers and people who care for the environment and their communities. I'm looking forward to a very rewarding year!



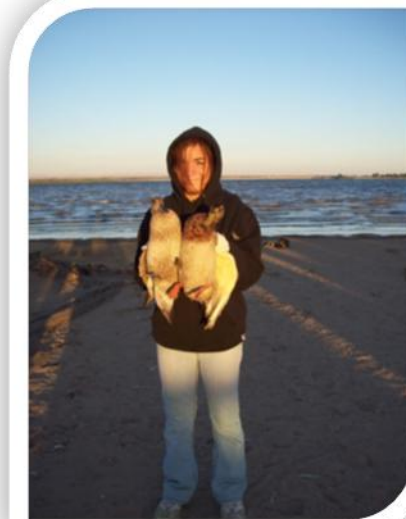
## **A Century of Conservation**

On Thursday, October 25th, Bob Sobba will be signing copies of his book "A Century of Conservation". The book chronicles the history of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. Join Bob at the Rubaiyat bookstore in downtown Caldwell at 722 Arthur Street. The signing starts at 5:00 p.m. The books are \$10 and all the proceeds go to the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. Please come out and support the Friends group.

## Duck Banding at Lake Lowell

My two granddaughters and I had the opportunity to help with the duck banding activity on the refuge early Tuesday morning, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Here are some photos and statistics of that experience.

- Bob Christensen



**Hannah & Myah Petzinger  
with Feathered Friends**

### Numbers of Ducks Banded

Mallards: 101

Mature males - 42

Immature males - 7

Mature females - 37

Immature females - 15

Pintails: 59

Mature males - 14

Immature males - 13

Mature females - 5

Immature females - 27

Green-winged Teal: 10

Mature males - 4

Immature males - 1

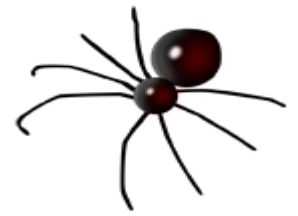
Mature females - 1

Immature females - 4

*Data furnished by Kash Anderson,  
Volunteer Coordinator Intern*



# Creepy Critter Encounters!



It's that time of year again. The nights are cooler and the mornings crisper,  
the great-horned owls  
are hooting—and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is gearing up for  
**Creepy Critter Encounters!**

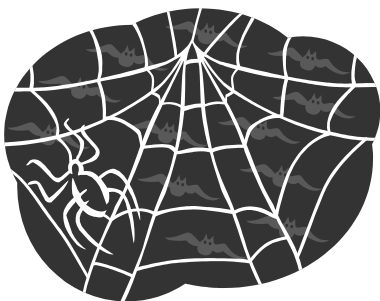
**Creepy Critter Encounters is a free, spooky event guaranteed to get you in the Halloween spirit.**

Kids and families can get outside for a night hike to learn more  
about the creatures  
that live on the refuge—and of course there will be candy!

Bring the kids (and kids at heart!) **on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**  
from 4-6:30 PM.

Last year over 500 people came, many in costume,  
for a spooky hike,  
crafts, scary stories, and to howl for coyotes  
and hoot for owls!

An event like this takes a variety of volunteers to make it  
a success. This is a great opportunity  
for volunteers to **celebrate a fun holiday with a wildlife twist**  
and give something back to the community.



If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out  
the volunteer sign-up form or contact the Volunteer  
Coordinator.



## PREPARE NOW FOR BLACK FRIDAY AND SUPER SATURDAY HOLIDAY PURCHASES BY ORDERING YOUR SCRIP CARDS

The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for The Friends of Deer Flat without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program! And scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline and even dining out.....NOT TO MENTION GREAT HOLIDAY PURCHASES.

We are anticipating sending in our SCRIP HOLIDAY Order about NOVEMBER 1st. Watch your email prior to that time. If you have questions about SCRIP, contact Bob Christensen at [rcloydchris@juno.com](mailto:rcloydchris@juno.com) or phone 208-454-2518.

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## Calling All Refuge System Photographers!

The 2012 Refuge Photo Contest is now open and accepting entries through October 12, 2012, the end of National Wildlife Refuge Week. This year Southwest Airlines, the official airlines of NWRA, has generously donated the grand prize of \$2,000 and 4 round trip tickets. For more information and contest details please visit [refugeassociation.org](http://refugeassociation.org).

Each year we receive outstanding images that showcase the natural beauty and wonder of our wildlife refuges. We look forward to your submissions!

Best,  
The NWRA Team

P.S. Don't forget to 'like' our facebook page at [facebook.com/RefugeAssociation](https://facebook.com/RefugeAssociation) for contest updates and previews of the outstanding 2012 photos!

# 2012 Duck Stamp is now on sale!

More than 10,000 acres of land was added to seven units of the National Wildlife Refuge system on September 12, 2012. The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC), meeting in Washington D.C., approved the action. The commission is the body that spends duck-stamp money. Here is a summary:

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (Montana - 810 acres purchased and 5,834 acres leased)  
San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge (Texas - 1,441 acres purchased)  
Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (Texas - 200 acres purchased)  
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (New York - 625 acres purchased)  
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (Oregon - 24 acres purchased)  
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina - 1,543 acres purchased)  
Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area (California - 164 acres easement).

The money for these acquisitions comes from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF), the account where duck-stamp funds are deposited. The stamp is known officially as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

In addition, approval for 19 North American Wetland Conservation Act projects in 12 states was made by the commission.

The meeting also heard a short presentation from Bill Hartwig, board member of the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, a non-profit group recently formed to promote sale of duck stamps to people who do not hunt waterfowl. Hartwig told the commission, "More stamps need to be sold, and we need to emphasize the value of the stamp and national wildlife refuge land to people outside the waterfowl-hunting community."

Hartwig made a point of mentioning the value of refuge land (hence the stamp) to birders.

Information on the stamp Friends group can be found at its Web site: [www.friendsofthestamp.org/](http://www.friendsofthestamp.org/) or on Facebook.

# You can help your local national wildlife refuge!

## Become a Member in 2012

2012 is fast winding down, so **it's time to start renewing memberships**. Your gift is critical to our ongoing work to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, and is tax deductible. With your help, we can fund projects like the Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trips and Osprey-cam and help to educate the people of the Treasure Valley to the importance of the refuge.

For your convenience, there is a renewal form below. Thank you for your continued support of The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge.

***Be a Friend! Join Today!***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*State Zip Code*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Telephone*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Email address (please include email address if you have one – this is our primary means of communicating with Friends members)*



**Osprey Webcam Photo**

### **Annual Membership Categories:**

___ Owl (Senior & Student)	\$10
___ Deer (Individual)	\$15
___ Fox (Family)	\$25
___ Osprey	\$50
___ Eagle	\$100
___ Goldeneye	\$500

*All contributions are tax deductible*

Please detach this portion and return with a check payable to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge  
13751 Upper Embankment Road  
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046





**FRIENDS OF DEER  
FLAT WILDLIFE  
REFUGE**

13751 Upper Embankment  
Road  
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

***Executive Board:***

***President - Genevieve  
Johannsen (467-7515)  
Vice President - Vacant  
Secretary - Vacant  
Treasurer - Bob  
Christensen (454-2518)***

***Newsletter - Denise Hughes  
(850-5885)***

**We are on the web at:  
[www.fws.gov/deerflat/  
friends.htm](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/friends.htm)**

**To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge**

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in Winter 2013

## Lecture Series

### OCTOBER

#### All About Bird Songs

Speaker: Steve Bouffard,  
retired FWS Refuge  
Manager

This presentation will explore the amazing variety of songs and calls of birds. It will not be a 'how to' bird by ear session, but more of an appreciation of bird song and their singing abilities.



### NOVEMBER

#### Wintering Raptor Population Trends

Speaker: Neil Paprocki,  
BSU Raptor Biology  
Master Student

Breeding populations of raptors within Birds of Prey National Conservation Area have been very well studied. Wintering raptors in this same area, however, have received very little attention. Neil will present his research on the population changes of wintering raptors in the NCA over the last 20 years

### DECEMBER

#### 2012 Fire Season & Updates on Boo-Boo the Bear Cub

Speaker: Karen Miranda-Gleason, National Inter-agency Fire Center

Have you been wondering how Boo-Boo the bear cub has been doing since he was rescued by fire-fighters? Or do you have questions about the many wildfires that burned in 2012? Then this is the lecture to attend.

